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NAVAJO MAN CHARGED IN 2002 MURDERS

PHOENIX, Ariz.-- A federal grand jury in Phoenix returned a two count indictment on June 27, 2006, against Kendrick Begay, 34 years old, of Lower Greasewood, Arizona, for the First Degree Murder of a male juvenile and a female juvenile on March 28, 2002. The federal grand jury had indicted three other individuals, Alvera Begay, Dennis Hill, Jr. and Macheryl Begay for perjury during its investigation.

The defendant was arrested on June 28, 2006, and on July 5, 2006, Magistrate Judge Mark Aspey ordered him detained pending trial. A trial date will be set at the defendant's arraignment on July 12, 2006.

A conviction for First Degree Murder carries a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge David Campbell will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted over the last four years by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution is being handled by Ann Birmingham Scheel, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-626-PCT-DGC RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-119(Begay)

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